

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

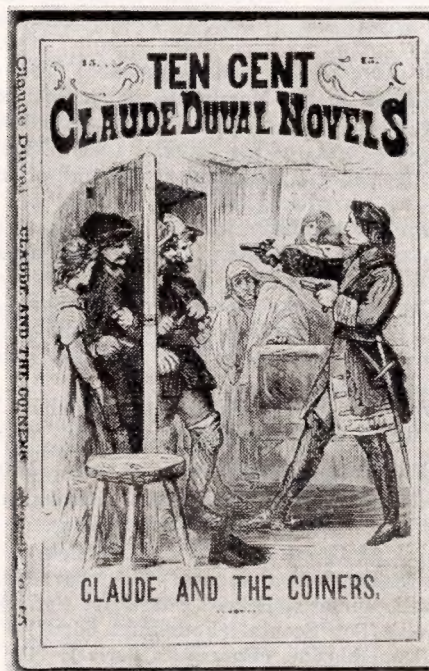
Vol. 41 No. 3

March 15, 1972

Whole No. 474

## Following The Merriwell Trail

By Gerald J. McIntosh



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 147

TEN CENT CLAUDE DUVAL NOVELS

Publisher: Norman L. Munro & Co., 163 William St., New York, N. Y.  
Issues: 25 (highest number seen advertised). Schedule of Issue: Unknown.  
Size: 6¼x6¼ inches. Pages: 100. Price: 10c. Illustrations: Hand stenciled colored cover. No other illustrations. Contents: "Reprint from the original London edition" of a British penny dreadful.

## Following The Merriwell Trail

By Gerald J. McIntosh

I have always held a great desire to know just how many books and tales have been written about the Merriwells which includes those written by other than Gilbert Patten and stories on all three of the "Merries." To this end I have constantly been on the alert for anything new that comes out. There are quite a lot of them in one form or another that have appeared since New Tip Top Weekly folded and those that appeared in Street & Smith pulp magazines that succeeded it. I don't recall that I have ever seen a list of those tales published in a convenient form, so for readers who might not have seen them I have arranged such a list.

I'm speaking strictly of those on the Merriwells and this does NOT include those on Owen Clancy who was in 18 consecutive numbers in the New Tip Top. Most compilers would I suppose claim they were on the Merriwells, but although by Standish or his "ghost writers," and written about a fellow who was a close friend to Frank Merriwell, Junior, or "Chip" Merriwell the fact remains that they were about a different character altogether, and his name was not MERRIWELL. Anyone who does not want to go along with me on this has but to add the number 18 to the final number at the end of this list.

Before New Tip Top Weekly had disappeared from the scene there had been a total of 968 tales on the Merriwells alone, this exclusive of the Owen Clancy tales, of the total issues of 986 that comprised the Weekly, which, of course, takes in the 850 copies of the original (old) Tip Top Weekly.

For my own convenience I am using a 'system' of my own in numbering these tales and taking up where New Tip Top left off; therefore, the first number would be No. 969 and they will be in numerical order all through the pulps that S&S published containing them. The later ones that came on afterwards practically all by writers other than Patten will be listed as I acquired them and this can't be done in chronological order. Some of those in the pulps were not by Patten. Those of which I have definite or good proof of being authored by Patten, I have placed by their side the letter P, thusly (P), in parentheses.

Here is my compilation of these stories, all of which I have read with but a single exception, which will be named when I get to that story.

### Story No. In Tip Top Semi-Monthly & Wide-Awake Magazines, 1915 & 1916

- 969 Dick Merriwell's Likeness; or, The Bribe That Failed. (Complete)
- 970 Dick Merriwell's Long-Shot Chance. (Complete)
- 971 Frank Merriwell At Great Salt Lake. (Complete)
- 972 Dick Merriwell's Baseball Gringos. (Four-part Serial)
- 973 Frank Merriwell, Junior's, Hike. (Four-Part Serial)
- 974 Frank Merriwell's Boy Scouts. (Four-Part Serial)
- 975 Dick Merriwell In Alaska. (Four-Part Serial)
- 976 Frank Merriwell, Junior, At Fardale. (Four-Part Serial)

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Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. 01560. Subscription: \$3.00 per year. Ad Rates—9c per word, \$1.50 per column inch; \$3.25 per quarter page, \$4.50 per half page and \$7.50 per page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.



- 977 Dick Merriwell's Counterstroke. (Complete)
- 978 Frank Merriwell's "Madness." (Complete)
- 979 Frank Merriwell, Junior's, Coup. (Complete)
- 980 Dick Merriwell's Ruse. (Complete)

#### In Sport Story Magazine in 1927 and 1928

- 981 (P) Young Frank Merriwell. (Two-Part Story)
- 982 Frank Merriwell's Exiles. (Two-Part Story)
- 983 Frank Merriwell's Secret. (Two-Part Story)
- 984 Frank Merriwell's Enemy. (Two-Part Story)
- 985 Frank Merriwell's Polo Team. (Two-Part Story)
- 986 Frank Merriwell And The Ivory Hunters. (Two-Part Story)
- 987 Frank Merriwell And The Gamma Gang. (Two-Part Story)

#### In Fame And Fortune and Fortune Magazines, 1928 and 1929

- 988 Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) Tackles Real Estate. (Complete)
  - 989 Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) & The Wall Street Wizard. (Complete)
  - 990 Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) In The Curb Market. (Complete)
  - 991 Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Lucky Dollar. (Complete)
  - 992 Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Crooked Tip. (Complete)
- Though "Junior" doesn't appear in the titles, stories are of Frank, Jr.

#### In Top Notch Magazine in years 1929 and 1930.

- 993 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) Freshman. (Complete)
- 994 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Fighting Blood. (Complete)
- 995 (P) Frank Merriwell. (Junior,) Under Suspicion. (Complete)
- 996 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) In Disgrace. (Complete)
- 997 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Relentless Foe. (Complete)
- 998 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) Beats The Game. (Complete)
- 999 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) At Gray Gables. (Complete)
- 1000 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Discovery. (Complete)
- 1001 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Speed. (Two-Part Story)
- 1002 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) Keeps His Vow. (Three-Part Story)
- 1003 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior,) On The Diamond. (Three-Part Story)  
(Also titled "Flaming Hate")
- 1004 (P) Frank Merriwell, (Junior's,) Speed Boat. (Three-Part Story)  
(Also titled "Red Arrow")

Though "Junior" does not appear in the titles of Nos. 993 thru 1004, all these stories were of Young Frank Merriwell.

A careful check of the foregoing stories will show there are 36 titles in all, but with all the added installments it took 65 different copies of magazines to get them all published. Some compilers look at it that each installment made up a separate Merriwell story; but "tain't so." It took all the installments of a story to make the complete story.

The above list, the ones Patten wrote, were presumably the last tales of the Merriwells he wrote. But there were a few more exceptions later, and these I now plan to name.

Merriwell Story No. 1005. Frank Merriwell vs. Fred Fearnot. A fantasy story written by our own Ralph P. Smith, of Lawrence, Mass. Published in Frank T. Fries' "Frank Reade Library" in four parts in the latter months of 1928. Though by the highest of imaginations it could not have been any where near the "truth," but it was a corker of a yarn anyway. It took place on the eve of the wedding of Fred Fearnot to Evelyn Olcott. The "Merries" played a game of baseball against a team led by Fred Fearnot. Frank was the pitcher for the Merries and Fred pitched for his team. The 9th inning



came around with Fred's team leading one to nothing. In that inning Frank was struck out by Fred and the Merries lost the game. There were those who believed Frank struck out on purpose in order that Fred's happiness on his wedding day would not be marred. When asked about it "Frank laughed." Many of the old characters of Tip Top were in the story, as well as the friends of Fred Farnot in *Work & Win*; also many were at the game from other nickel novels of our first decade. Ralph sure did the yarn up "brown" and to say it was interesting would be putting it mild, indeed.

Merriwell Story No. 1006. The Merriwell Newspaper Adventure ("Comic") Strip. Due to the time sequence I am listing this next. Though primarily not a story in the sense that story means, if put together in story form it would have made a book of not a little size. This strip was syndicated in many newspapers in the early and middle 1930's and was fair reading. I have the set complete as it appeared. Produced by the Central Press Association. Gilbert Patten himself made up the lay-out for it and it is said he wrote the text. The artist for the strip was Jack Wilhelm. The pattern followed the line of Tip Top Weekly in general, having him at Fardale, then on a vacation, and his entrance to Yale and a stay there. Most of his old Fardale and Yale chums, as well as some of the girls, have a place in the story. Frank meets his father and with No. 936 of the strip series, he leaves for good. He is succeeded in the series by his chum, Chip Collins, and the series continued until No. 1260 when it ends. I enjoyed it a lot.

Merriwell Story No. 1007. Frank Merriwell At Yale. In 1935, shortly after the above strip ceased appearing, one of the Big Little Books so popular at that period one of them with the above title appeared on the counters of the five and dime stores. I still have my copy of it. This book was made up of strip Nos. 820 to 880 of the newspaper strip series and recounts Frank's adventures at Yale. Others in the book were Bart Hodge, Bruce Browning and Inza Burrage; new characters also appeared. The text was altered somewhat from that in the newspapers; the artist continued to be Jack Wilhelm, though the drawings in some instances were different. This book was published by the Whitman Pub. Co., Racine, Wisconsin. (Note: This was the fourth book to have that title. Tip Top No. 40 was "Frank Merriwell At Yale." One of the "thick" reprint books of the Merriwells in the New Medal Library also bore the title, and a comic series in the 1950's was also called Frank Merriwell At Yale. A series that lasted only four numbers. It will be told about here later on.

Merriwell Story No. 1008. Gilbert Patten And His Frank Merriwell Saga. Though not altogether about Merriwell, the name is in the title, a one full long chapter is devoted to the creation of Frank. By Levi Cutler, published 1934 at University of Maine, Orono, Maine. Has a list of most of Patten's writings, but not all by any means, with two photos of Patten one while young, one in his old age. An odd thing in the book is that famous cover of Tip Top Weekly No. 256, which was not the original cover at all. There is a note along with it from a prominent dime novelist collector, which explains the reason for this "phenomenon" and why it occurred. Like most all books on Merriwell there are inaccuracies, but plenty worthwhile information.

Merriwell Story No. 1009. The First Merriwell "Comics." They appeared in the Shadow Comics Magazine, published by Street & Smith. There were four numbers, possibly more, but four is all that I have seen. The first number was for March, 1940, and is about Football at Yale. The second number was for April, 1940, and continues with the college theme. Frank is a Junior at Yale. Hazing; strife between the Freshmen and Sophomores. Whoever wrote the text certainly had good knowledge of the early Tip Tops. A sort



of a reenactment of the hazing of Jack Ready in Tip Top No. 188 in which Frank evens his score with that cocky student in which he had gotten the "best" of Frank Merriwell in that long ago Tip Top. The third number was for May, 1949, and the story was "The Eight Oared Shell Game" . . . in which Yale defeats Hayward (Harvard) in spite of all efforts of Frank's enemies to wreck Yale so Harvard will win. Number four was June, 1940. Frank leaves Yale and goes to the Georgia plantation of Jack Diamond's parents for a vacation where thrilling adventures await him. Many of Frank's old Yale chums have parts in these "comic" stories, but names of some of them were changed or altered. For instance, Harry Rattleton was Harry Haulerton, Jack Ready was changed to Reddy. Inza Burrage was Inez Burrage, etc. The artist is not known to me, nor the author of the text, but as said above he knew Tip Top and what he was writing about.

Merriwell Story No. 1010. "Mister Frank Merriwell," by Gilbert Patten, himself, and just about the last story written about Frank Merriwell. Published by Alliance Book Corporation, New York City, 1941. Patten says he had often been asked how Frank Merriwell would show up in the early or middle stages of middle life, so he wrote this book to show Frank on the scene long after his thousand adventures in Tip Top Weekly and in succeeding publications. Patten hoped the book would be a success, but generally speaking it was not. The readers of Frank in his youthful days were not impressed by it at all and there were many adverse comments on it. I thought it fair reading but on the whole it was disappointing, due to the rather risqué situation in the story. We learn for the first time that Frank and Inza had a daughter who was named Bart for Bart Hodge, no doubt. This girl like thousands of others in these modern times, (1940) and later of course, had fallen a victim to the wiles of "modernity" and therefore found herself in a delicate situation, from which she emerged "honorably" of course, but the puritanical times of the early Tip Tops caused the readers to look on her with rather disconcerting eyes and with much disfavor. But all turned out well in the end. Frank, Junior, was also a character in the story as a shell-shocked World War 2 correspondent. Gilbert Patten just didn't know how to write on risqué situations and they had always been "taboo" in his stories of the Merriwells. He just didn't come through with a story that was very appealing. An aftermath of this story was a poem that also bore the title of "Mister Frank Merriwell" in DNRU No. 111, Dec. 1941, by Wm. B. McCafferty which told pretty well why the story wasn't popular.

Merriwell Story No. 1011. The Man Who Beat Merriwell. By Roe Richmond. In Super Sports Magazine, September, 1947. Publishers, Columbia, Holyoke, Mass. Frank's baseball team is made up of he and Dick M., Bart Hodge, Jack Ready, Barney Mulloy, Jack Diamond and Ephraim Gallup; also Phil Singleton, probably "Big Bob" Singleton of Tip Top and Tom Lightfoot of All-Sports Library, (maybe Jack Lightfoot), Frank's team loses to a professional team led by one Mike Rocklin. Frank adds two more unknown players to make up an eleven, which also lose to Rocklin's football squad. Two losses in a row! Frank has a girl friend named Kay Van Allyn. A fantasy indeed. Written after Gilbert Patten's death. No doubt he turned over in his grave when his heroes lost two games in a row. Though a fantasy for sure, the story was very interesting.

Merriwell Story No. 1012. Frank Merriwell At Yale. (Comics.) The second set of "comics" on Frank Merriwell. Published in 1955 by Charlton Comics, Derby, Conn. Bi-monthly. Fine colored covers as Tip Top Weekly used to have. There were only four issues as the Charlton people were practically put out of business by the big hurricane that hit the north-east coast at this time.



Cartoonists for this series were Giordano Alascia and Dick Vice and they pulled a "boner" at the very first by showing Bart Hodge with blond hair. Who wrote the text? Well—you tell me. But it didn't follow the pattern of the Tip Top Weekly very close.

First number was June, 1955. Divided into three parts, "Freshman Baseball," "The Hearty Welcomers—Hazing" and "Ordeal By Fire." There is baseball, hazing and a gangster element in these parts. Besides Frank there is Bart Hodge, Harry Rattleton and Tad Jones, the popcorn vender in Tip Top No. 1, though now he is selling newspapers. Pretty fair story. Frank helps out to pull a triple-play.

Second number was August, 1955. Divided into three parts, "At The Big Meet," "Blues In The Night," and "The Tougher They Come." A track meet and more baseball. Gamblers and more of Gangsters. Inza Burrage shows up in this one, with the others of Tip Top in the June copy. Frank wins most of the track events. A jewel robbery. Frank captures the robbers and recovers the jewels. All very interesting.

Third number, October, 1955. Has three separate stories, "Unofficial (Boxing) Champion," "The Ringers" and "Freshman Victory." Frank is goaded into a boxing match with an enemy, Dick Hammer, and makes short work of him, thereby becoming "unofficial" boxing champion at Yale. Softball. Frank organizes a team and puts the "kibosh" on a set of gamblers. There is war between the Freshmen, led by Frank, against the Sophomores led by Herbert Bentley. Frank and the Freshmen rout the Sophs. Hodge and Rattleton still in the story, which was a good one.

Fourth, (and final) number, January, 1956. Divided into three parts, "Danny Griswold's Lament," "Impossible To Win" and "His Rich Enemy." Football at Yale. Frank invents a new play and he and Rattleton make it work, and thwarts the gamblers trying to make a "clean-up" by spying and otherwise trying to wreck Yale. Danny Griswold joins Frank here. There is a visit by Frank and Hodge to see Elsie Bellwood, who in this story is Elsie Vinton. All of these very good reading.

We are getting close to the bottom of the barrel as far as Merriwell stories of any great length are concerned; in one or more instances in the above the story is only of medium length or perhaps of a somewhat long novelette length. There are dozens and dozens yet of stories on the Merriwells, other characters in Tip Top Weekly, the Weekly itself and Gilbert Patten, etc., which can be named and considered as of the Merriwells. They belong in a separate list due to their being short tales, some of them "fact" more than fiction. I prefer to make a separate listing of these.

However, in 1965, there was published three pocket books on the doings of Frank Merriwell, Junior, and his college life that is far removed from anything else that has appeared on him to date. I mean far removed in time from his past adventures, college and elsewhere. The story on him sort of starts over again in a way. I will now list these three books.

These books were published by Universal Publishing & Distribution Corporation, 800 Second Avenue, New York City, New York, 10017 and known in the trade as "Award Books." Though Junior does not appear in the titles all are about Young Frank Merriwell. He does not appear to be one whit older than when we last hear of him in "Mister Frank Merriwell," about 25 years ago as a shell-shocked war correspondent in World War Two. The conditions are vastly different. It seems to be there is a starting all over again. His parents are both dead, apparently having died when he was much younger and the explanation is that he was raised by an "old Aunt," tho heretofore there had never been any mention of his father or mother having had a sister.



Anyway, he was on his own supported by a trust fund that had been established for him much earlier. We find him at College out at Danford University in California among utter strangers to all who had in the past read the adventures of the Merriwells. Author, Mike Frederic.

Merriwell Story No. 1013. Frank Merriwell, (Junior) Returns. Published March, 1965. Frank enters Danford University out in California, presumably near Los Angeles. As a Freshman he becomes the team's pitcher and in true Merriwell fashion, in his first game he pitches a no-hitter. The theme of the story all the way through is baseball; Danford plays games with surrounding colleges, much as in the way of Fardale and Yale in the Merry stories in Tip Top Weekly. But the high spot of the book is Frank's no-hitter in his very first fame as a pitcher. Outside of this rather "phenominal" feat for a beginner the book makes very good reading. There is a Professor at Danford named Logan who has a daughter named Ann and Ann Logan is Frank, Junior's first "girl friend" in the series.

Merriwell Story No. 1014. Frank Merriwell, (Junior), At The Wheel. Can give no report on this one. (Does any reader have a copy they would send to me for one dollar?) By the sound of the title I judge it to be a racing story of some sort, but this is purely theoretical. Not known just when published but it was during the summer of 1965. Second in the series by Mike Frederic.

Merriwell Story No. 1015. Frank Merriwell, (Junior), Quarterback. Frank, Junior, still at Danford. Football is the theme of this one. Most of his chums of the past baseball season are with Frank on the football eleven, and like his Dad and uncle before him he proceeds to make an enemy on the team. But as usual he is the "star" when it comes to playing and bringing victory in the end. Ann Logan still on the scene. There is a tragedy or near one on the beach of the Pacific Ocean that enlivens the tale. Third in the series and also by Mike Frederic, and as far as I can determine, the last one as I know of no more that followed. As has happened in the past, we are left "on the spot" as to what would have happened next. Issued, September, 1965.

Merriwell Story No. 1016. "Frank Merriwell's Father." Though not a book about Frank Merriwell in the sense of the word, we can't leave this one out at all. It was the Autobiography of Gilbert Patten, written by Patten himself before his death but not published until nearly twenty years after he died. It has so much about the Merriwells that it deserves the notation of being a "Merriwell story." Edited by Harriet Hinsdale and Tony London and published by the University of Oklahoma Press at Norman, Oklahoma. Has a finale chapter by the two persons above, and shed much light on Patten's declining and last years. Would have been much more valuable had it contained more data and dates. (Note: No. 139 of original Tip Top Weekly was titled "Frank Merriwell's Father.")

There have been published in Magazines and Newspapers several, in fact numerous short stories or articles on the Merriwells. Due to their length which in some cases equal that of a medium-long novelette, I feel that some of them deserve listing and "numbering" here, especially in view of the importance of the publication in which they appeared. I am going to list a few of the ones I consider the most important and most interesting:

Merriwell Story No. 1017. The Man Merriwell. That famous and well publicized short story by James M. Cain in the Saturday Evening Post for June 11, 1927. Mr. Cain describes Frank Merriwell to a "T" and tells us how he won all the games single-handedly against Harvard in the ninth inning or the last few seconds in the fourth quarter. There is much about Porfias Del Norte, the arch enemy of Frank Merriwell and the worst villain in all litera-



ture. What Gilbert Patten thought of his hero.

Merriwell Story No. 1018. Dime Novel Days: Frank Merriwell. Part 2 of the well known Two-Part article by Gilbert Patten in the Saturday Evening Post for Feb. 28-March 7, 1931. Part 1 was devoted to Beadle and Beadle authors. Part 2 was mostly on Frank Merriwell and here in a nutshell is how the Merriwell stories were conceived by Patten and his own opinion of Frank Merriwell. Photos of some dime novel writers and heroes and a good photo of Patten when he started writing the Merriwells.

Merriwell Story No. 1019. Frank Merriwell In A Machine Age. Article by Lester Velie. In Brooklyn Eagle Magazine Section for Jan. 8, 1933. (Prof. Albert Johannsen erroneously lists the date as being in 1903 instead of 1933 in his collection of newspaper items on dime novelania.)

Merriwell Story No. 1020. Frank Merriwell To The Rescue. A Fantasy. In New York Sunday Mirror Magazine Section, March 24, 1940. About two book pages—shortest article known by Patten on Frank Merriwell. Written by Patten at this period when he was in adverse circumstances. Tell in a fantasy of Frank coming to his rescue when he was in court and facing possible eviction.

Merriwell Story No. 1021. Merriwells Kept Me Young And Healthy. By Gilbert Patten in Physical Culture Magazine, September, 1940. Patten's account of how he kept in good physical shape by reading his own athletic stories of Frank and Dick Merriwell and following them to the letter. With photo of Patten at his desk-table with his scrap books and illustrations of six of the Merriwell "thick books."

Merriwell Story No. 1022. Frank Merriwell At Yale Again . . And Again . . And Again. In American Heritage, June, 1961. By Stewart H. Holbrook. With two pictures of Patten and showing front covers of seven different styles of Tip Top covers. Harvard men blanched, cads fled, girls got trembly and Horatio Alger took a back seat when manly Frank appeared. Score? Twenty million words.

Merriwell Story No. 1023. Frank Merriwell's Triumph, or: How Yale's Great Athlete Captured America's Fancy, Purified The Penny Dreadfuls and Became Immortal. By Robert H. Boyle. In Sports Illustrated for Dec. 24, 1962. With rough drawing of front cover Tip Top No. 399. One of the longest and best of the long list of Merriwell articles that has appeared.

This concludes the list of "major" stories and article that have been published on the Merriwells. There is a much longer list of shorter and minor ones to be made up in the future.

(Adding 18 OWEN CLANCY stories to above would make a total of 1041 stories on characters in Tip Top Weekly).

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## WANTED

### Paul The Peddler and Slow And Sure

By Horatio Alger, Jr.

In fairly good condition, either in cloth bound or paperback.



## Bill Bruce Books Background

By Julius R. Chenu

Many boys series books were attributed to author's names which were accompanied by military ranks. This was a favorite gambit with publishers, especially in connection with stories having a war, aviation, or out-of-doors theme.

The list of such "commissioned" authors names includes Captain Quincy Allen, Major Henry Arnold, Captain Gordon Bates, Captain Ralph Bonehill, Ensign Robert L. Drake, Col. James Fiske, Ensign Clark Fitch, and Captain Wynn Roosevelt, to name but a few examples.

These ranks lent an air of authority to these names in the mind of the juvenile reader. Legitimacy of such rank and military background was seldom doubted. As I recall my boyhood reading days, it never occurred to me that Ensign Robert L. Drake who wrote the Boy Allies Naval Series was not a genuine naval officer and veteran of World War I. The possibility that Captain Gordon Bates was a woman never entered my mind. As with most boys I assumed that these were the true names and ranks of real people.

When I returned to the field of boys books as an adult collector and took a deeper interest in the background of the field, I discovered the Stratemeyer Syndicate, and the use of pen names and assumed ranks to be a widespread practice. I then veered to the opposite extreme, and more or less took for granted that few writers used their real names in this field and that the ranks were all assumed for business purposes.

Since I not only collect but also read these books, I reacquainted myself with the contents of some of them. Their quality was assayed from a different viewpoint than I had used as a boy. Many authors and series suffered in this process, but a few stood up surprisingly well. One such series was the BILL BRUCE SERIES, called THE AVIATION SERIES by A. L. Burt, which firm published it. All of the titles appeared in 1928, and were attributed to Major Henry Arnold. The titles were:

1. BILL BRUCE AND THE PIONEER AVIATORS
2. BILL BRUCE, THE FLYING CADET
3. BILL BRUCE BECOMES AN ACE
4. BILL BRUCE ON THE BORDER PATROL
5. BILL BRUCE IN THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RACE
6. BILL BRUCE ON FOREST PATROL

Burt was not one of the publishers featuring the Stratemeyer Syndicate output, and as I read these stories I decided that who ever had written them had indeed been very knowledgeable about the aviation of that day. I wondered if it might be possible to find out who had authored them. Arnold was not an unusual name—perhaps it had been adopted from the writer's first and middle names, was one thought which came to mind. Another thought was that it might have been adopted because of the prominence in American aviation of General "Hap" Arnold. But 1928 was too early for this . . .

A closer look at the title page showed that it said, "By Major Henry H. Arnold, Air Corps." A very short scramble showed that "Hap" Arnold's name was Henry, and that his middle initial was H. I was becoming convinced of the connection. There could not have been very many Henry H. Arnolds in the Air Corps in 1928—that organization was a heck of a lot smaller in those days than it is now.

Had Arnold been a consultant, ghost writer type of author? Unlikely, since this field was not that lucrative. How could I verify what connection there might be?



General Arnold himself was now deceased. A. L. Burt, the publishing house, had gone out of business. A good Juvenile Jupiter Detective (Tuttor Branch) doesn't give up so easily. Fortune finally favored my quest, and I was able to contact the son of Gen. Arnold, who proved to be a very nice person, also following an Air Force career.

Col. William B. Arnold not only corroborated his father's connection with the BILL BRUCE series of books, but also furnished a very interesting picture of how they came to be written.

It seems that in 1927 Major Arnold and his family were stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas. Son William had been meeting with a few difficulties in his work at the post school, and his teacher suggested that during the summer vacation he should read some boys books to improve his reading skills.

He wrote, 'My mother returned home one day with several boys books, one of which I remember was called THE ADVENTURE BOYS IN THE VALLEY OF DIAMONDS. Since I was very much interested in aviation at the time, I found no interest in this fantastic story. My father said, "Well if you won't read that book, I'll write you one in which everything that happens is true," and he proceeded to write BILL BRUCE AND THE PIONEER AVIATORS. His method was to fill a page with type, throw it on the floor, and proceed with the next page. My mother's job was to collect these pages, put them in order, and do the editing.'

A publisher (Burt) agreed to buy the book when it was submitted, provided Major Arnold completed a series about the Bill Bruce central character. The books were written in a period of about 2½ months to complete the series.

The son was delighted to have a series of books thus written and named for him. His name is William Bruce Arnold, hence BILL BRUCE Arnold.

The characters in the books were named for officers in the Air Corps at the time, with spellings slightly altered in some instances. Thus Tooeey Spaatz became Tooeey Spatz, etc. The author took especial pride in the fact that every incident that happened to Bill Bruce in the stories had actually happened to some officer in the Air Corps.

It is therefore no longer surprising to me that this series has something special about it. The author had lived in and around the events of which he wrote. He was taught to fly by the Wright Brothers. He knew, associated with, and flew with the pioneers of American aviation. He was an Air Corps officer in World War I, and in the post war era he was involved in the planning and operation of such projects as the Border Patrol, Forest Patrol, and the Transcontinental Air Race. Small wonder that he was uniquely fitted to tell stories of these aviation events.

It is also most interesting that this father plunged into such a project to help his son with his school work, naming the series central character after the boy as an extra stimulus. The Commanding General of the Air Force in World War II is shown in a warm paternal light.

If interested in details of Gen. Arnold's early career, particularly the era up to 1928 when the series was published, they may be found in GLOBAL MISSION, by Henry H. Arnold, Harper Bros., 1949. The first 130 pages cover this period.

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#### NOTES

Mr. Ward G. Loucks, of 150 East

8th St., Oswego, N. Y. 13126, is interested in obtaining some Liberty Boys and James Boys Weeklies.



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

342. James Pollock, 1213 Maple St., Columbia, So. Car. 29205 (New member)  
 343. Russell Melchior, Apt. 224F N. Arlington Ave., Harrisburg, Pa. 17109 (New member)  
 344. David A. Bershtein, 5 Lisbon St., Hartford, Conn. 06106 (New member)  
 229. Robert L. Johnson, Box 47, Bisbee, Ariz. 85603 (New address)  
 345. Mrs. Claude Roach, Box 143, Keller, Texas 76248 (New member)

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES  
CONCERNING DIME NOVELS

**FRANK MERRIWELL IS BACK**, by Paul O'Neil. Article in LIFE, February 11, 1972. A short review of Merriwell's career and a sketch of Jack Rudman who is now reprinting the Merriwell Series. The Dime Novel Roundup is mentioned, however, it is erroneously stated that the limit of subscribers is 350. Hopefully in the years to come the Roundup will grow to twice that number.

**OCEAN TO OCEAN BY DAYLIGHT** by Art Ronnie. Article in ALOFT, Winter 1971-1972 issue. A short review of Tom Swift and His Airline Express with an excellent colored photo of the dust jacket. Aloft is published by Wickstrom Publishers, Inc., 4025 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, Florida 33146. Single copies 75c, subscription \$3.00 per year, issued quarterly. It is distributed in seat pockets of all National Airlines passenger flights.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hope everything is o.k. with you. Just got out of the hospital. Had an operation on my shoulder. Winter came early this year. It was below zero in December although it has been fairly nice the last two weeks. Novel business is slow. Seems everyone has their collection stored away. I'm still interested in Liberty Boys if anyone has any for sale. Charles F. Westbrook, E1204 Illinois Ave., Spokane, Wash. 99207.

## FOR SALE

Back numbers "Readers Digest" also "Popular Mechanics" cheap.

Eli A. Messier

Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I. 02895

## WANTED

Following books by James A. Braden:

Cabin in the Clearing  
 Captives Three  
 Two Boy Pioneers  
 Connecticut Boys in the  
 Western Reserve

Books must be in excellent condition. Please send list and price.

Fritz Moore

1911 Dunbar Road  
 Manhattan, Kansas 66502

## FOR SALE

Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly. Early and late numbers. Send want list; too many to catalog. Good condition and reasonable prices. Also WANTED: in nice condition, Magnet and New Magnet Library and Merriwell Series.

## GUINON

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

## OLD PULP MAGAZINES WANTED

Such as Doc Savage, Shadow, Spider, Unknown, Phantom, Western Story, Wild West, G-8, Wings, "spicy" mags and many others in the all-fiction field. Must be in excellent condition. What have you? Send list and price wanted. No comics or books.

## Back Numbers

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

Back numbers, Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup Nos. 1 to 237 inclusive. A number of reprints in the lower numbers (can't be helped). Also two indexes, novel catalogue, birthday number and the one number published of Pioneer and Scouts of the Old West. Single issues, 10c each.

All for \$24.00. Can you beat it.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.



## FOR SALE

**EDWARD T. LE BLANC — 87 School St. — Fall River, Mass. 02720**

Postpaid. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

### CHAPMAN, ALLEN

The Darewell Chums in The Woods, Cupples & Leon Co., good	---- \$1.00
Fenn Masterson's Discovery, The Goldsmith Publishing Co., good	--- 1.00
Fred Fenton in The Line, Cupples & Leon Co., Very good	----- 2.00
Fred Fenton on the Track, Cupples & Leon Co., DJ. Very good	----- 2.50
Nat Borden's Find, The Goldsmith Publishing Co., good	----- 1.00
The Radio Boys at Mountain Pass or The Midnight Call for Assistance. Grosset & Dunlap Publishers, good	----- 2.00
The Radio Boys at the Sending Station or Making Good in the Wireless Room, G&D, good	----- 2.00
The Radio Boys on the Pacific or Shipwrecked on an Unknown Island, G&D, very good	----- 2.00
The Radio Boys Trailing A Voice or Solving a Wireless Mystery, G&D, good	----- 1.50
The Radio Boys with the Flood Fighters or Saving the City in the Valley, G&D, good	----- 2.00
The Radio Boys with the Forest Rangers or The Great Fire on Spruce Mountain, G&D, good	----- 2.00
Ralph in the Switch Tower, or Clearing the Track, G&D, good	----- 1.50
Ralph of the Round House or Bound to Become a Railroad Man, G&D, loose cover	----- 1.00
Ralph of the Engine or The Young Fireman of the Limited Mail, G&D, good	----- 2.00
Ralph of the Overland Express, or The Trials and Triumphs of a Young Engineer, G&D, good	----- 2.00
Tom Fairfield's Pluck and Luck or Working to Clear His Name, Cupples and Leon Co., DJ, Pictorial, Excellent	----- 3.00
Tom Fairfield's Pluck and Luck or Working to Clear His Name, Cupples and Leon Co., DJ, yellow, very good	----- 2.50

### KELLAND, CLARENCE BUDINGTON

Mark Tidd, Harper and Brothers Publishers, very good	----- 3.00
Mark Tidd in Business, H&B, very good	----- 3.00
Mark Tidd in Business, orange cover, DJ, H&B, good	----- 2.50
Mark Tidd in Italy, DJ, H&B, excellent	----- 3.00
Mark Tidd in Sicily, H&B, very good	----- 2.00
Mark Tidd in the Backwoods, G&D, very good	----- 2.00
Mark Tidd Manufacturer, DJ, G&D, very good	----- 3.00

### LANGWORTHY, JOHN LUTHER

The Aeroplane Boys Among the Clouds, or Young Aviators in a Wreck, M. A. Donohue and Co., fair, water marked	----- 1.00
The Bird Boys, or The Young Sky Pilots' First Air Voyage, M. A. Donohue and Co., Front page torn off, good	----- 2.00
The Bird Boys, or The Young Sky Pilots' First Air Voyage, grey cover, M. A. Donohue and Co., good	----- 2.00

### LAWTON, CAPTAIN WILBUR

The Boy Aviators in Africa or an Aerial Ivory Trail, Hurst and Co., cover loose, fair	----- 1.00
The Boy Aviators in Record Flight or the Rival Aeroplane, Hurst and Co., fair	----- 1.00
The Boy Aviators on Secret Service or Working With Wireless, Hurst and Co., fair	----- 1.00